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The SOUTHWESTERN

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Volume 87, Number 21

The Student Newspaper of
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

April 24, 1996

Departmental moves off; building renovations rescheduled

By KIM BRITTON/NEWS REPORTER

Faculty in departments that planned to relocate to a different building this summer should unpack their bags. Also English, speech or theater majors who thought their new classes would be held in the Math and Business building next fall should think again.

The scheduled move of the language arts department to the M&B building and business department to the Stafford building will not happen until May 1997 due

to incomplete renovations.

Dr. Dan Dill, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said he has known for a long time what the general order of renovations was, but once the workers were able to start the work in the

Administration building, he began to realize when moves would be possible.

As soon as the current renovations of the ADM building are complete, the workers will begin on the M&B building.

Dill said the language arts delay is due to the amount of work to be done and the number of resources available to do it.

The renovations are being

See "Renovations" page 5

Rape charges dropped against two students

Custer County has dropped rape charges against Southwestern students Steven Perring and Carlos Salazar following the alleged victim's refusal to testify against the pair.

The charges stemmed from an investigation in late February when Perring, a Cordell senior, and Salazar, a Carnegie

See "Crime" page 5

In Memory



Sophomore pharmacy major Kyle Waggoner visits the memorial site of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. Memorial services were held in Oklahoma City Friday to mark the one year anniversary of the bombing (see related photos pages 8-9).

PHOTO BY ELLIE MIRANDA

Inside...

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CDL celebrating 'Week of Young Child' through Saturday

A&E, pages 10-12

Exclusive interview with country music singer Tracy Byrd

Sports, page 16

Track team trying to qualify all members for national meet

View of the Staff

As many readers of this publication may not know, THE SOUTHWESTERN staff typically spends at least 40 hours a week gathering information and writing stories, taking /developing/printing photos, selling and designing ads, laying out pages and proofreading.

At times we feel tired of putting in so many hours, especially toward the end of the semester when the weather warms up to fishing standards.

But last Friday, all of our Roloids days paid off when several members of this staff garnered state recognition in a contest sponsored by the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association.

A&E editor Robyn Hoffman took first place in the feature writing section and third in newswriting. Readers may recall her stories

about Miss Black Southwestern Binsu Johnny and most recently Tracy Byrd (see story page 10).

Ad manager Anne Meek took first in ad design, and credit for our display ads goes to her.

Photo editor Ellie Miranda won first in photo display. Students may recall seeing a woman loaded down with camera bags frantically snapping photos at campus events (see special photo feature on pages 8-9).

And finally, news editor Leslie Taylor placed second in the feature writing portion. Her most memorable piece was about Mr. America, who visited Southwestern's campus to host the Mr. Dimes Pageant.

These OCPA awards have renewed our efforts to make this the best college paper in the state.

And you can help us in our goal. Write in suggestions, drop by our lab or, better still, join our staff and become part of a winning team.

The SOUTHWESTERN

The Student Newspaper of
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

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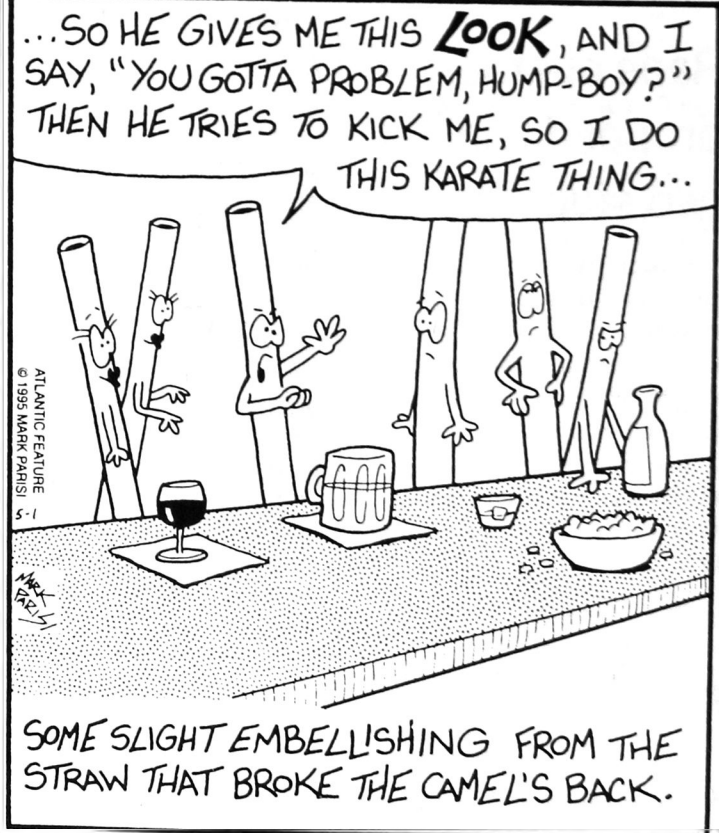
The *Southwestern* is the student newspaper of Southwestern Oklahoma State University. It is published every Wednesday during the fall and spring semesters, except during holidays and finals week. Students in the editing class serve as section editors. The editorial board meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the journalism lab, Old Science 117.

The *Southwestern* encourages comment from the student body, faculty, and administration in the form of letters to the editor. All letters must include a name for consideration; however, the name may be withheld upon request. Letters should be sent to *The Southwestern*, 100 Campus Drive, SWOSU, Weatherford, OK, 73096, 774-3065.

The opinions expressed within signed editorials are the opinions of the writers; the opinions expressed in unsigned, boxed editorials are the opinion of the staff. Neither is necessarily the opinion of the university administration, staff or faculty.

off the mark

by Mark Parisi



From the Underground

By Terry Larson

I've been wondering about the label "Generation X" that my generation has received. What does this term imply? It does not seem flattering. It conveys a sense of ignorance or irrelevance.

People who could not sign their own names signed an "X" instead, and if something is incorrect or faulty, a big "X" is stamped on it.

What is a common characteristic of this generation? Discontent, in a vague, cloudy form. A substantial number of young people just don't seem to be with the program.

They don't use the same language, respect or use the symbols that the majority of Americans covet or tolerate. For some people, a church building may represent security, salvation or purpose. For others, it represents oppression, mind control or irrelevance.

One of the reasons that society has no problem with killing animals for food, fun or profit is that there is a lack of communication between us and them by way of language and symbols.

We may find it difficult to kill the family dog, since it usually knows its name, can entertain us or stops what it's doing that irritates us when we order it to. Communication occurs, at least on a primitive level.

If a dog were to say to you, "Hey, can you loan me five bucks? I'll pay you back at the Little League game," you might actually consider the request, but probably not harm it.

But if the same dog were to instead say "Long live the Communist Homosexual Vegetarian's Liberation Front!" you would whack it.

This generation, for all the condescending hype it has received over the last few years, has said very little. It has expressed a vague sense of discontent.

What would this dog say if it found its language and molded its symbols? Until this generation can collectively think about what it wants and how to accomplish these goals, it will merely growl.

Long live the Communist Homosexual Vegetarian's Liberation Front!

—Columnist Terry Larson
on talking dogs

Reflections

By John Holthe

Forrest Gump's mom said that life was like a box of chocolates. Let's see if she's right.

Well, after I graduate I'll get a writing job, dig into my bag of TWIX and write columns that might allow me to make 100 GRAND on my PAYDAY.

After I make the big SKOR in the writing field, I'll probably fall in love with a girl. She'll be my BIT-O-HONEY and I can be her SUGAR DADDY.

For our first date I'll take her to see the THREE MUSKETEERS ballet and then have a HOT TAMALE dinner.

We'll have three kids: Reese, Mike and Maty (the M+M's), but I don't know if I should hold them because I'm a BUTTERFINGER and I'll drop Reese and he'll go CRUNCH and KRACKLE. Then we'll have to pick up

REESE'S PIECES and put him back together.

We'll move to FIFTH AVENUE and my wife can go on a shopping SPREE. She'll buy the kids a pet. I don't care if it's a hamster or a fish, KIT, KAT or a dog.

Then we can have another child. BABY RUTH and the other kids will grow up and get jobs.

One of them might even be an astronaut and go to MARS or discover a new planet in the MILKY WAY galaxy. There might even be a STARBURST occurring at the time.

Then the kids will get married. Ruth will marry a guy named Shey and Christmas will be filled with conversations of HER SHEY.

I might get a few SNICKERS from this, but I always wanted to go into the milking business. But since I know ZERO about business, I'll go bankrupt and the headlines will read "MILK DUDS."

Then my wife will leave me for a JOLLY RANCHER named HEATH who raises BLACK COWS, and I won't be her SWEETTART anymore.

I'll start drinking at MR. GOODBAR and dance the TOOTSIE ROLL with a couple of girls named SKITTLES and TWIZZLER.

CDL celebrating 'Week of the Young Child'

By TARA HULETT/NEWS REPORTER

The children of the Child Development Lab will continue celebrating the annual Week of the Young Child through Saturday.

Fun-filled learning experiences with new people, new books and new places in the community are part of what is going on this week.

"Early Years Are Learning Years ... Make Them Count" is the theme of this year's WYC, April 21 - 27.

The children are due visits from a number of personalities including Weatherford's mayor and The Cat in the Hat, a.k.a Dr. Greg Moss, of the education department.

Other new adventures in store are opportunities to learn more about where Mommy and Daddy go during the day.

The children's art displays will hang throughout the week in the windows of downtown businesses. Parents will wear badges and pins, and the CDL will display a banner on the outside of the building.

The activities began on Monday when the children took a field trip to the pharmacy building for a demonstration by pharmacy student Suzanne Hodge. Tuesday the children visited President Joe Anna Hibler's office for snacks and were entertained at the Pioneer Center by a children's drama troupe. Today they baked cookies to hand out at a mid-morning campus tour tomorrow, and at 2 p.m. they will attend a children's concert in Fine Arts.

Throughout the week local personalities will read books to the children. Volunteers include Mayor Gary Rader,

education professors Dr. Greg Moss and Dr. Jana Lou Scott, and CDL director Dr. Judy Winchester.

Last Thursday Rader visited the children, signed a proclamation and read them a book. Day care center children from the surrounding area were also at the lab.

The Week of the Young Child was first established in 1971 for children birth to eight years old, by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Assistant director Carolene Jackson, who has been part of the lab for six years, says "every year it gets better and more exciting."

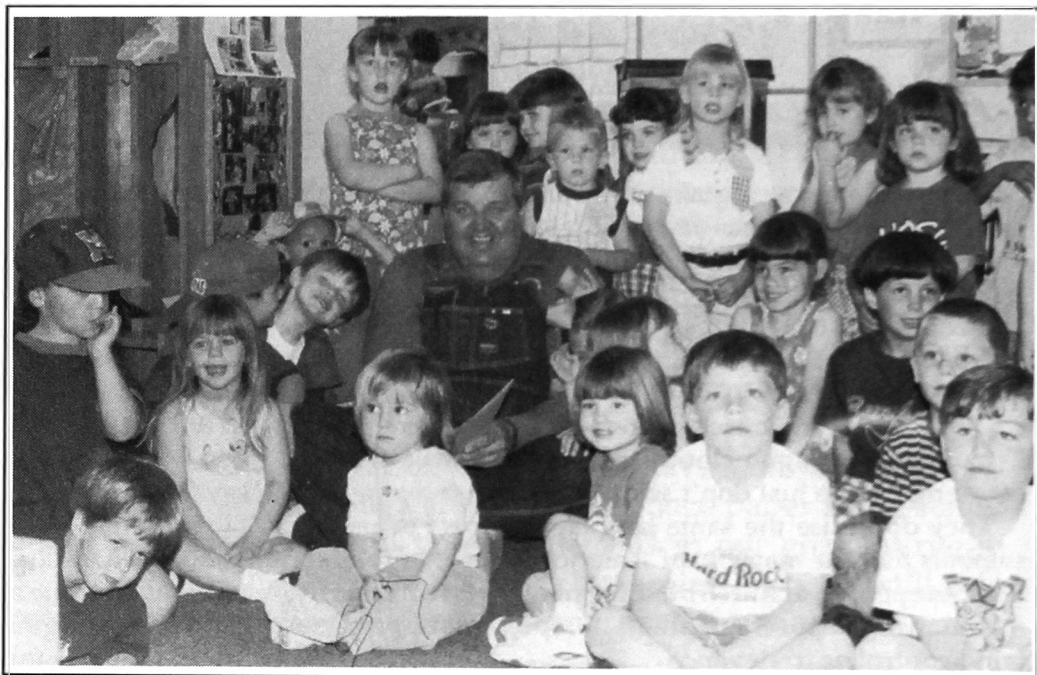


Photo By Brian McDonald

Mayor Gary Rader kicked off the annual Week of the Young Child last week at the Child Development Lab by reading a story for the children followed by a proclamation. The Week of the Young Child celebration continues through this week.

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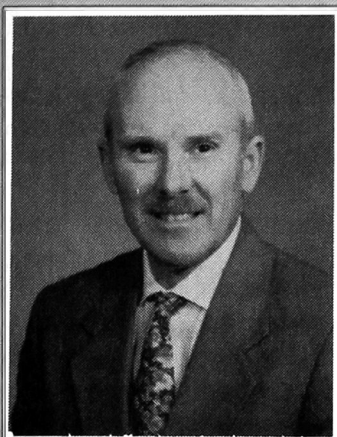
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Wolgamott receives award

Dr. Gary Wolgamott, professor of microbiology and Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences, received the third annual Academic Excellence Award at a faculty banquet held April 11.

For his efforts, Wolgamott was honored with a commemorative Waterford

crystal clock, an engraved pen set and \$2,500 cash.

Wolgamott has been a faculty member since 1968 and teaches microbiology, virology, immunology, epidemiology and hominology.

He has served two terms on the Faculty Senate, and was a 1990 member of the North

Central Accreditation Steering Commission.

He helped organize the Western Oklahoma AIDS Network, a support group for those with the disease.

The 1994 and 1995 winners of the award were Vilas Prabhu and Stuart Burchett, respectively.

Renovations *from page 1*

carried out by workers from the Physical Plant. Since the work is being done by Southwestern employees, it will take a little longer. On top of renovations, they must also carry out daily duties on campus.

Because the workers have prior commitments in the summer, they won't be able to begin on the M&B building until fall.

Dill said additional workers could be hired to speed the process, but the additional cost is unwarranted.

"By having our own people do the work the university is saving money," he said. "It's better off to take longer and do well than mess up and live another 20 years in something that doesn't fit our needs."

According to the current construction timetable, many buildings on campus will get improvements. The schedule could still change.

In May of 1996, the library, pharmacy annex, art, and scene shop will get new roofs. This summer a temporary interactive classroom will be set up in the library. Lighting and smoke detectors will be put in the dorms.

In May of 1997, the language arts department will move to the M&B building, the School of Education will relocate

to temporary quarters, and the social science department will move to the Science building.

In the summer of 1997, remodeling of the Education building will include adding an elevator and four interactive classrooms.

In the summer of 1998, an elevator will be added to the Science building

Crime *from page 1*

sophomore, allegedly raped an 18-year old woman visiting Weatherford.

In other court news, another Southwestern student was formally charged late last week with maintaining a fake ID.

Clint Pitt, sophomore pre-physical therapy major from Oklahoma City, was arrested on a felony warrant last week for maintaining a driver's license with his picture and someone else's name.

The preliminary hearing is set for May 24. A felony conviction could cost up to \$10,000 and seven years in prison.



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COUNTRY

News in Brief

Seniors art exhibition continues this week

Art exhibits by Marc Moyer, senior commercial art major, and John Shear, senior commercial art major, will continue through Friday in the Art building gallery.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Grassroots to sponsor 'Groove-In' tomorrow

The Grassroots Environmental Club will hold their annual 'Groove-In' April 25 in the Student Union Ballroom from 5-11 p.m.

The Frogmen, Interspectrum, Fortunate Five, Non-sequitur and Gloryhog bands will perform.

President Cole Rachel, junior English education major, said the club will have a booth where T-shirts and free information will be available.

Other organizations on campus will also be present; however, at press time the organizations were unknown. Admission is free.

SW to host retirement planning teleconference

Southwestern will be the site for a free live retirement planning teleconference seminar, "Save! Your Future Depends on You," Monday, April 29, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Southwestern Conference Center.

The public is invited. Reservations are required by calling Southwestern at 405-774-3275.

Alpha Phi Sigma frat members elect officers

Alpha Phi Sigma, a scholastic fraternity for students with a 3.25 GPA and at least 45 hours, elected new officers for the 1996-97 school year.

New officers include Brandon Disney, junior English education major as president; Laren Hightower, sophomore biological sciences major as vice president; David Smith, junior medical technology major as secretary; Kandi Sullivan, junior

management major as treasurer; and Whitney Helton, sophomore psychology major as historian.

The four executive council members include Marina Ramireiz, sophomore mathe-

matics major; Jennifer Lehman, junior elementary education major.

Also, Casey Klesel, sophomore pre-pharmacy major, and Gena Stover, junior physics major.

Two student senators land top OSGA offices

Two Southwestern students have landed top positions on the Oklahoma Student Government Association for 1996-97.

Bryan Evans, sophomore psychology major from Weatherford, and Michael Allen, freshman political science major from Butler, were recently elected OSGA president and secretary, respectively. They were inducted at the OSGA-sponsored Higher Education

Day yesterday in Oklahoma City.

Evans said his goals and activities for the upcoming year include visiting all active student government associations in Oklahoma, starting monthly school reports, lobbying state and national legislators on education issues, continuing involvement with various higher education forums and possibly endorsing various candidates for public office.

Evans also served this past year as OSGA secretary.

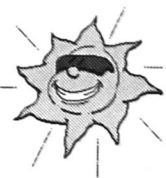
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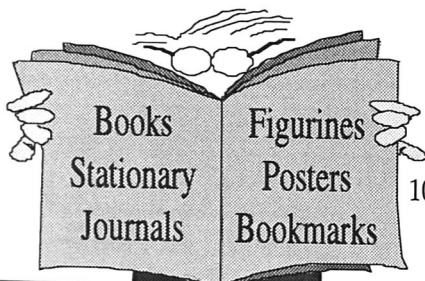
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Southwestern's Corner on Scholarship

Associate Vice President's Message:

Southwestern was awarded a grant from Southwestern Bell Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to fund teams comprised of a student with faculty, staff, or administrators to investigate aspects of underrepresented populations. Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be available from members of the Faculty Research/Scholarly Activity Committee and from the Office of Sponsored Programs at the beginning of May. The average amount of the awards is targeted at \$4K. The application deadline will be Sept. 6. The Faculty Research/Scholarly Activity Committee will review proposals with awards being made by Oct. 1. This is a new internal solicitation for the university. The grant represents an excellent opportunity to get started in organized research activities. Results of the research will be presented at the 1997 Student Scholarly Activity Fair.

Faculty and Administrators in the News:

***Carolene Jackson**, child development lab, ext. 3039, was awarded a grant entitled: "Western Oklahoma School Age Training Project" from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The amount of the award was \$67,090.

***Wm. J. Kermis**, graduate school, ext. 3769, was awarded a grant entitled: "Student and Faculty Research Partnerships: Investigating Aspects of Underrepresented Populations" from the Southwestern Bell Corporation Foundation. The amount of the award was \$15,000.

***Phillip Holley**, social sciences, ext. 3158, and **David Wright**, social sciences, ext. 3150, were awarded a grant entitled: "The Women of Eddie Warrior Correctional Center: Evaluation of a Data Set" from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. The amount of the award was \$1,710.

***James Breckenridge**, music, ext. 3709, and **Charles Chapman**, music, ext. 3708, were awarded a grant entitled: "Oklahoma Beethoven Society Festival" from the State Arts Council of Oklahoma. The amount of the award was \$1,500.

***Nancy McClain**, arts and sciences, ext. 3700, was awarded a grant entitled: "Comparison of Home Economics Graduates to Administrative Systems Graduates" by the Oklahoma Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The amount of the award was \$250.

Funding Opportunities:

McDonnell Foundation provides support to address well-

articulated and significant problems of K-12 classroom instruction or teacher preparation. The amount of the award is \$160K-\$640K. The application deadline is May 31.

National Science Foundation (NSF) provides support to conduct regional seminars, short courses, or workshops for faculty in science, math and technology. The amount of the award covaries with the scope of the project proposed. The application deadline is June 1.

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Graduating seniors: are you concerned about your college debt? A year of AmeriCorps service will help with your debt and meet the needs of our nation's communities.

AmeriCorps engages Americans of all backgrounds in results-driven service. AmeriCorps members help communities meet their education, public safety, human and environmental needs. AmeriCorps members support hundreds of locally organized projects. They set up after-school programs, help immunize children, restore natural waterways, build houses and train community residents to provide continued volunteer assistance. In short, AmeriCorps gives you, the student, opportunity to share your skills, creativity and knowledge with others while you gain a new understanding of what it means to be part of a community.

In exchange for completing ten to twelve months of full-time service with AmeriCorps, members earn an education award of \$4,725 to help pay for college or pay back student loans. Full-time members earn a modest living allowance and health care coverage.

For more information, come by the Student Financial Services Office, STF 224.

Take Notice

Self-paced, pass/fail computer tutorials in Windows 95, Word 95 and Excel 95 will be offered starting June.

Dr. Sam Lackey, course administrator, said students can take summer courses for regular or continuing education credit.

For additional information, call Lackey at 774-3088.

One year later, emotions still run high

The campus joins millions who pay tribute to victims, families and heroes of last April's bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City.



The memorials... The children...

April 19, 1995, 9:02 a.m.—a day that will long be remembered as the worst terrorist attack on American soil. A fertilizer bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and took the lives of 168 men, women and children.

April 19, 1996, 9:02 a.m.—the nation, state and campus pause to remember the fallen and the countless heroes who were on hand to put back to order a city in shambles. Meantime, those arrested for the crime await trial in Denver, Colorado.

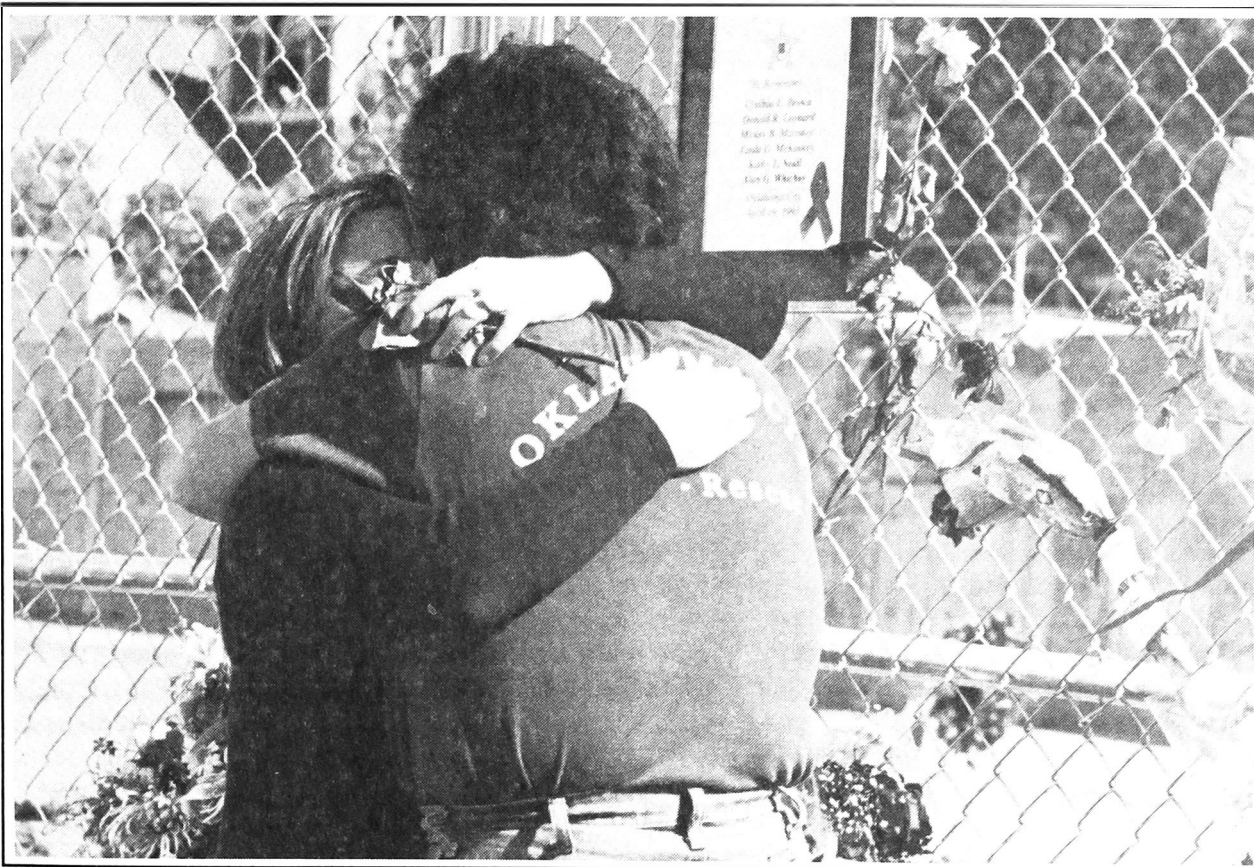


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE HEIDERRECHT

The media...



The grief...



The strength...



Photo editor Ellie Miranda and staff photographer Stephanie Heidebrecht were on hand last Friday as the nation paid tribute.

Country singer Tracy Byrd picture of popular

He's in popular demand.

A journalist is forced to postpone an interview with him at Lawton, Texas, because he is behind schedule.

Die-hard fans want more of his time at a backstage meet-and-greet at the Cowboy Club in Wichita, Kan.

Back home in Beaumont, Texas, his wife Michelle and daughter Evee fight to include him in family time.

Even in Weatherford, a committee meets at 8 a.m. to determine when to book him for the upcoming Panorama season.

Everybody wants a piece of his time. That's the big picture, a summary of his life. But it's the smaller pictures that reveal more of Tracy Byrd's life as a country music singer, father and husband.

An early snapshot:

A tall lean college junior walks into his parents' house to discuss future plans. The marketing major breaks the news to mom and dad that he is dropping out to pursue a career in country music. His parents try to dissuade him. He understands their reasoning, but he is determined to chase his own dream.

"My parents thought it was kind of silly," Byrd said. They didn't really believe me at first. They were pretty upset with me about dropping out of school."

His decision came after he recorded "Your Cheatin' Heart" in a mall recording studio. The impressed saleswoman invited him to perform on a monthly amateur show, where he quickly developed a desire to take his music further.

That desire eventually landed him in the spotlight at Cutter's, a hometown club. He filled the void left when now-famous Mark Chesnutt left for the bright lights of Nashville.

It would be 10 months later before Byrd would also head to

the country music mecca to try his hand at a professional career.

A vignette:

As the 29-year-old singer walks onto the stage of Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton, the crowd roars in excitement. The dark haired, brown-eyed sensation is clad in starched black Wranglers, ropers, a black Resistol and a bright red shirt. He grabs his Takamine guitar and breaks into song. This is the night the fans have waited for.

Hours earlier, those fans had gathered outside the coliseum doors, more than two hours before the 7:15 show time. Cars in the parking lot showed fans from as far away as Alabama, Arizona and Kansas. Fan loyalty was obvious.

The national attention Byrd is getting does not surprise fan club president Barbara Morgan. She has seen the fan club triple in size in two years. In a Monday morning phone interview with *The Southwestern*, Morgan explained the total number enlisted is up from about 1,200 two years ago.

"I just processed fan club member number 3,557," Morgan said. "By the end of the week, that number should reach 3,600."

Byrd's support is strong nationwide. According to Morgan, the greatest number of Byrdwatchers come from his home state of Texas. The Carolinas, California, and Illinois follow.

But his music knows no boundaries. Byrd has fans in Canada, Switzerland, Japan, the Netherlands, and even Nigeria.

"This guy was out on a ship and heard Tracy's music," Morgan said. "When he returned to Nigeria, he wrote for information about the fan club."

But forget California and Nigeria. Tracy's music will make its way to Southwestern during the 1996-'97 school year.

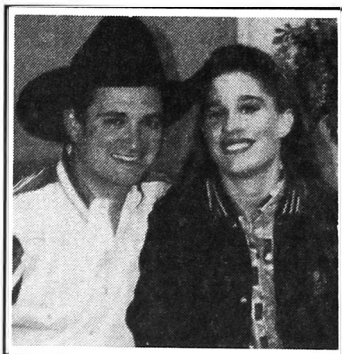
After months of deliberation, the Panorama committee

'I'm not like some of the artists whose careers have taken off with their first single and achieved overnight stardom.'

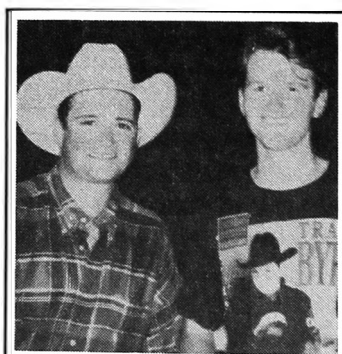
—Tracy Byrd
country music singer

Southwestern Fans

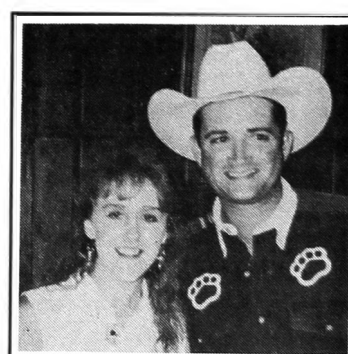
He has been through the area already, but he is preparing to make another appearance for next year's Panorama season. Tracy Byrd is pictured...



with freshman elementary ed. major Tammy Hoffman at Sayre High School in 1994

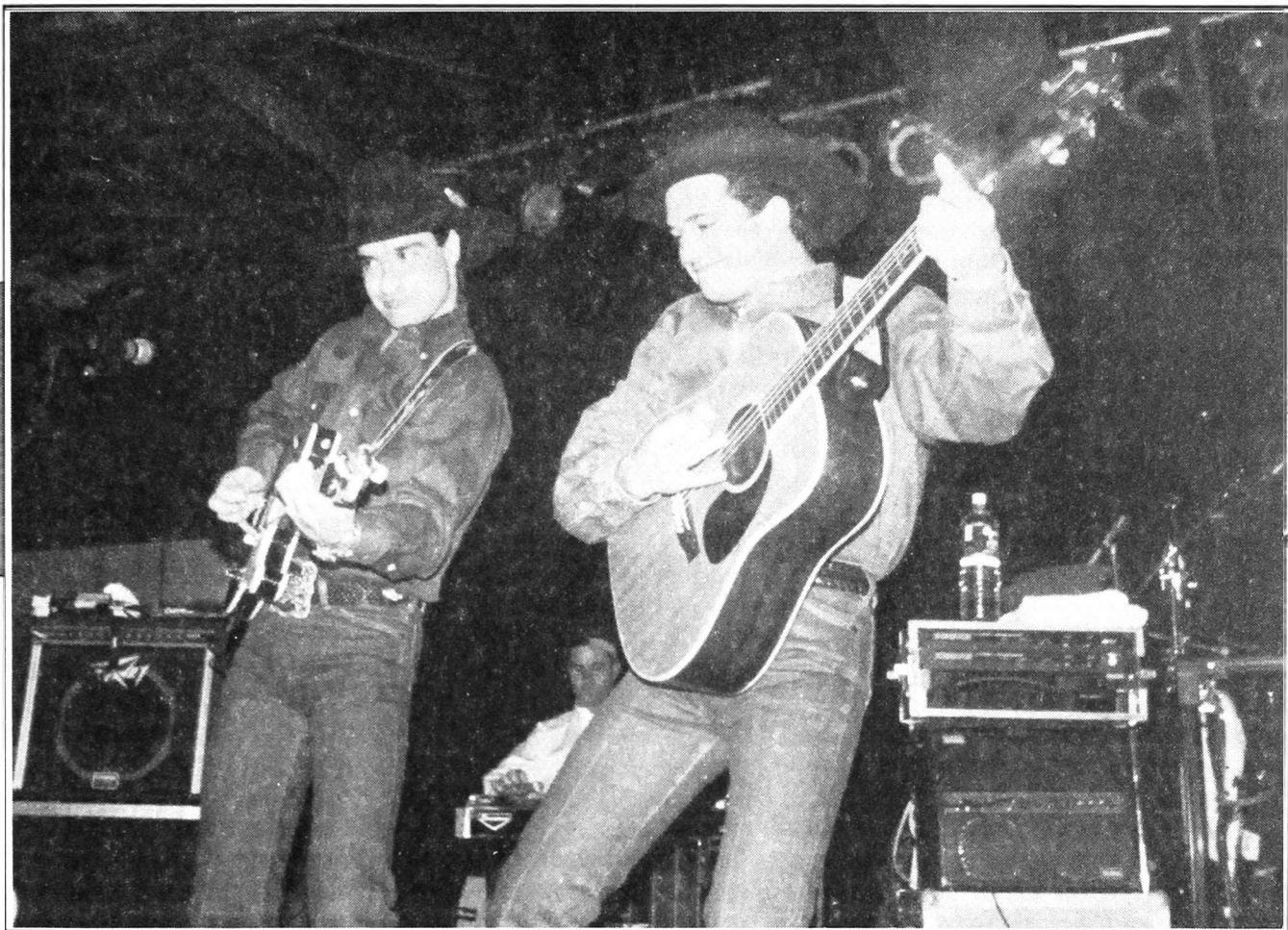


with junior finance major Shannon Birkenfeld in Dallas last August



with senior psychology major Annette Russi at Ft. Sill Army Base in Lawton last June

ity; bringing music to Panorama next year



Britt Godwin and Tracy Byrd jam together at the Cowboy Club in Wichita, Kan. Byrd is the singer of the current hit "Heaven in My Woman's Eyes." Godwin is the lead guitarist in Byrd's band The Only Way To Fly.

decided to book the popular star for next season. They polled students in early November, and Byrd was a top choice of the student body.

"I've seen Tracy in Dallas twice and also in Wichita," said junior finance major Shannon Birkenfeld, one of Byrd's newest fan club members. "I'll see him again in May in Amarillo...now that they are booking him here, I'll finally get to see him in my own state."

Tracy credits fans like Birkenfeld for his career. After every show, Tracy meets his fans backstage as a token of his appreciation. He said he doesn't know why certain fans keep coming back show after show. He can only guess.

"I hope it's because they can tell I really care...that I'm just personable and pretty ordinary," Byrd said. "I also hope they feel a warmth and a connection with me."

Birkenfeld said that is exactly what keeps him coming back.

"Because he is famous, I thought he would be someone who thinks he is better than everyone else," Birkenfeld said. "But he is the one of the most down to earth people I have ever met. He also puts on a good show."

The family photograph:

Little Eevee celebrates her first birthday with cake and punch. Mom Michelle opens a Precious Moment figurine sent in by a fan. Grandparents watch the baby proudly. Friends go gaga over the celebrated baby. But her dejected daddy is holed up on a bus, a country away, fulfilling prior obligations. He can only wish he were back home in Beaumont.

The scene is one Byrd would like to avoid. He yearns for more family time. It's a challenge every entertainer faces.

"I missed her first steps," Byrd said, his voice fading off with a touch of regret. "I missed her first word. I missed her first birthday. I missed a lot the first year, because I was already booked on the road."

But no more. Tracy vows never to miss another birthday. He asked that nothing be booked around this special time again.

"[Striking a balance between family and career] is probably the biggest challenge that I face," he said. "Everyone is wanting your time and the pressure is constantly on you."

The pressure forced him to set some boundaries. It's something

See "Byrd" page 12

Byrd

from page 11

he says has to be done if he is ever to spend time with family.

"It takes a little while to say 'Ok, here's what I'm going to do and this is all I'm going to do. The rest of the time is going to be spent with my family'."

"You've got to kind of put your foot down. Because it really is the biggest challenge of all—trying to be a good dad and a good husband and still trying to be Tracy Byrd the country star."

At this point Byrd is financially successful enough to walk away from it all and forget about all the overwhelming demands. But he wouldn't think of it. He loves it too much.

"It's what I do," he said. "A hard working person doesn't just walk away. You have to stick it out. Sometimes I do get frustrated and my attitude gets bad. 'I don't like that in myself, so I just try to change it.'"

Old negatives:

A very confident Byrd finally signs the dotted line at MCA Records on his second trip to Nashville. His self-titled debut album would soon hit the shelves. Shortly after, the aspiring country music singer drives down the highway and hears his self-penned tune "That's the Thing About a Memory" on the radio. He knows he has created a number one hit. After all, he just witnessed two other MCA stars hit number one with their first singles. He knows his single will burst onto the charts and he will become an overnight success.

Wrong. The song did not even chart. Disappointment set in.

"I sat there and watched MCA break Trisha Yearwood and Mark Chesnutt [into the business]...they both had number ones on their first singles," Byrd said. "I was the next guy they tried. I figured the same thing would happen to me, but I figured wrong."

At this point, Byrd was scared. Failure was not an option, so he began working harder.

After that initial disappointment, things started looking up for the MCA recording artist. His next release "Someone to Give My Love To" fared better, but it still did not give him the recognition he sought. It did give him some much-needed peace of mind.

"That eased my mind a little bit," Byrd said. "It helped me keep my focus and kept me working."

That focus made all the difference in the world. His next

single "Holdin' Heaven" hit number one. It was the fearful singer's salvation.

"I'm not like some of the artists in the past three or four years whose careers have taken off with their first single and achieved overnight stardom," Byrd said. "It was frustrating early on through the first couple of years."

But, looking back, Byrd wouldn't have had it any different. He said his steady gradual climb helped him build a firm foundation. Today, Tracy's success surpasses some of those overnight sensations.

"I was wishing I was in their shoes three or four years ago, but it turns out that today I'm ahead of them career wise," Byrd said. "Taking the long road proved better for me."

The undeveloped picture:

Byrd sits nervously, wife beside him, in a studio at Universal Studios in Los Angeles. As he listens to the emcee announce the line-up for the Academy of Country Music Awards, he wonders if he will ever make it up on stage.

His "Keeper of the Stars" is nominated for song of the year. In a category with Patty Loveless, John Berry, Tim McGraw and Brooks & Dunn, he knows he has some stiff competition. It's an outcome that Tracy must hear tonight.

Tracy will find out the results tonight when the awards show airs on NBC at 7:00 p.m. Byrd said the award would be nice, but if he doesn't win, it doesn't matter. He doesn't need the hat shaped award to prove his success.

He has compiled a lengthy list of accomplishments already. At press time, his *Love Lessons* album was headed

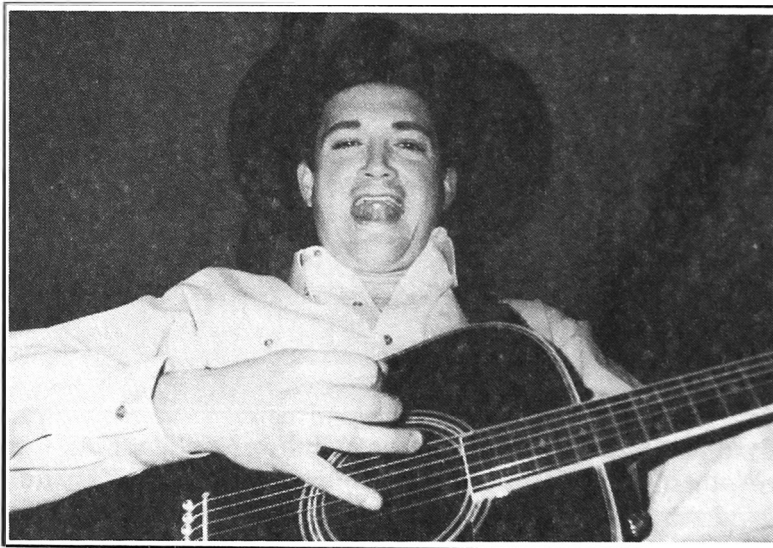
for platinum certification (one million copies sold). His *No Ordinary Man* album was approaching double platinum. Byrd earned another nomination for single of the year in the TNN Music City News Country Awards to be held in June. He also raked in awards at the Country Music Dance Awards last year with his song "Watermelon Crawl." The list goes on.

Tracy credits a Higher Power for his good fortune.

"I'm really happy," he said. "I've got a lot of things that God's given me—my wife, my little girl, and on top of that, He's given me a career like this."

But he is uncertain where this fruitful career will take him from here. Nobody knows.

His life is an unfinished picture.



Tracy Byrd entertains a large crowd of Southwestern students at Schreck's in Foss. Byrd attracted a large following of fans after his "Keeper of the Stars" hit number one. Photo by Robyn Hoffman

Practical experience**Students to take on directing, acting**

By ANDREA HOFFMAN/NEWS REPORTER

Students in Steve Strickler's play directing class will present five one-act plays Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Science auditorium.

The play directing class was designed to give students a better understanding of the pressures involved in putting on a theatrical production.

Students are responsible for choosing and casting their own shows as well as every aspect of technical production.

"I now realize what directors have to go through...the process can be really tough," Heather

Sprague, student director said.

Three productions are scheduled for Thursday and two for Friday.

Greg Daubenspeck will direct *Little Red Riding Hood* Thursday. This show follows the original fairy tale version with a few new twists.

Gina Gunsaulis will also present her play *Jane Eyre*. *Jane Eyre* is a romance about a governess who falls in love with her employer.

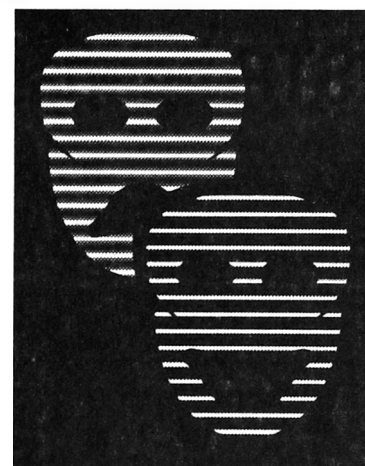
The last performance on Thursday is directed by Heather Sprague. The play is called *Unprogrammed* and follows a young man searching for the perfect woman by way of his

computer.

Friday night will open with the directing of Heathre Hardin and her play, *The Eclipse*. The play examines the life of Stephanie Washburn and how she overcomes the effects of old age and neurosurgery on her mother Muriel.

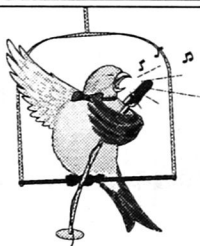
Completing the evening is Keri Strickler's production of *Safe Sex*. This focuses on a woman who must deal with the death of her husband and the secrets he has harbored over the years.

According to Steve Strickler, students in the class will direct these plays for a public audience as a final project.



"This project gives students the opportunity to experience all aspects of production from a different viewpoint," Strickler said. "Usually they just see the acting side. Now they experience the production in whole, not just in part."

Admission is free. For more information call 774-3240 or 774-3082.



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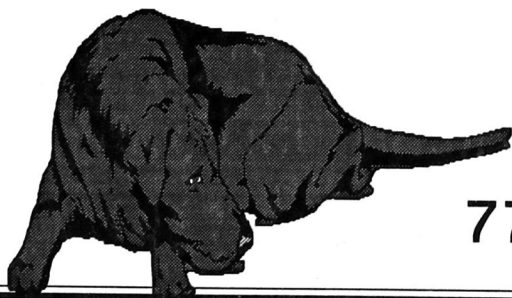
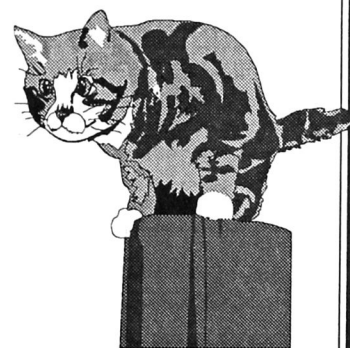
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Review

STP needs second listen

Lead singer Scott Weiland's has put his backburner, side-project band The Magnificent Bastards on hold. This has left time for the Stone Temple Pilots to put out their third album "Tiny Music...Songs from the Vatican Gift Shop."

The Seattle grunge sound is missing this time around, along with the abrasive strums of an electrical harshness.

On first listen, the CD didn't even sound like the Stone Temple Pilots. It sounded like some '60s psychedelic funk.

The second time around, it sounded exactly like STP, and on this album you won't be able to compare Weiland to Eddie Vedder or any other

grunge rock icon.

Although the sound is quite different, STP is doing their part in capturing and keeping up with the latest and ever-changing musical trends.

Certain words in the title of the album capture the essence of the sound perfectly, such as "Tiny Music" and "Gift Shop."

As I listened to what I thought would be the Seattle grunge music, some images did come to my mind—like the Beatles, lounge music, and lava lamps. Once I even thought of Barry Manilow.

Now, STP fans, please calm down. Even though the images in my mind are frightful, not every song is "Tiny Music."

Those who loved STP songs

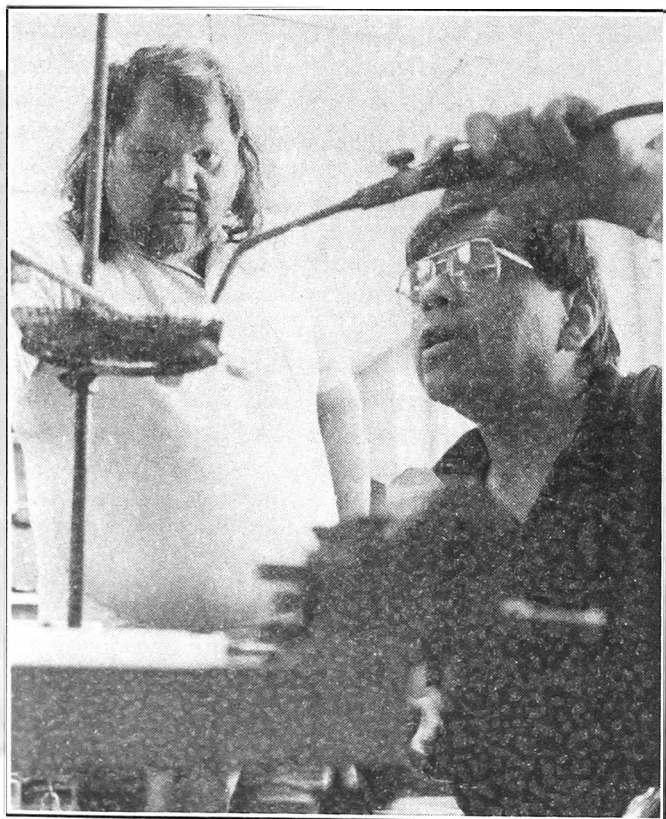


like "Crackerman," "Unglued" and "Wicked Garden" won't be disappointed. There is something for everyone on this album.

With this third album on the shelves, the Stone Temple

Pilots finally have a chance to achieve their own identity. Besides that, they have opened the door for a new music trend.

—Kim LoVecchio



Gerald Watson, a visiting Choctaw silversmith, is assisted by art student Richard Smith as he demonstrates how to make a bracelet. Watson showed off his abilities during Mr. Joe London's jewelry and metal design class last week.

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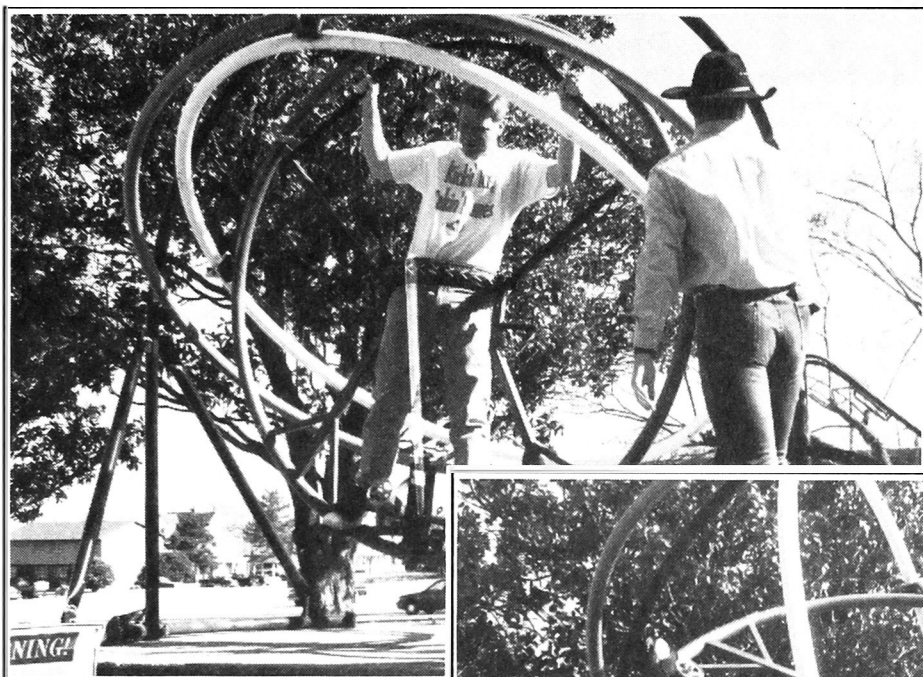
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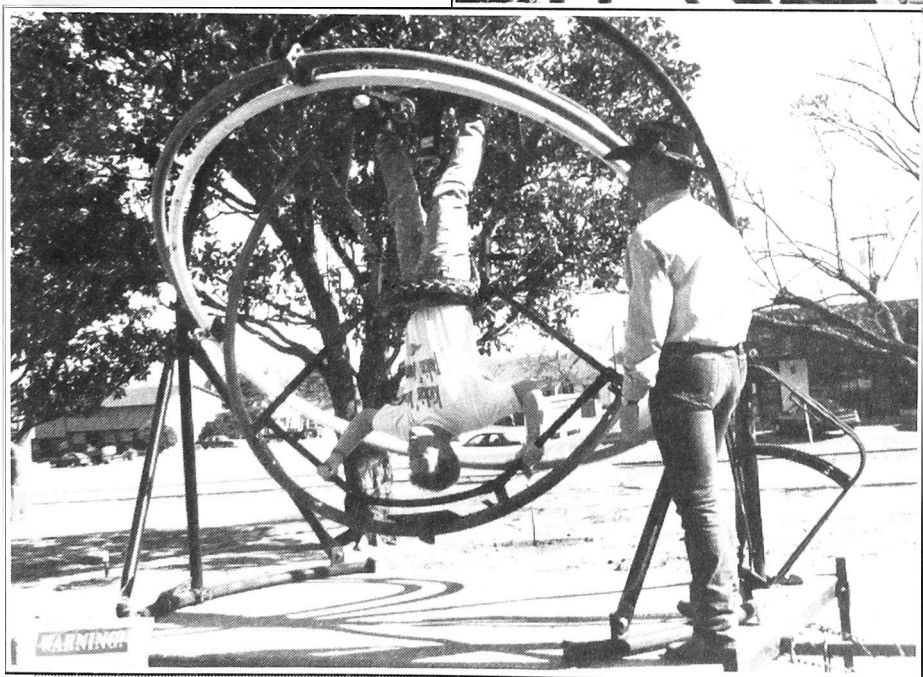
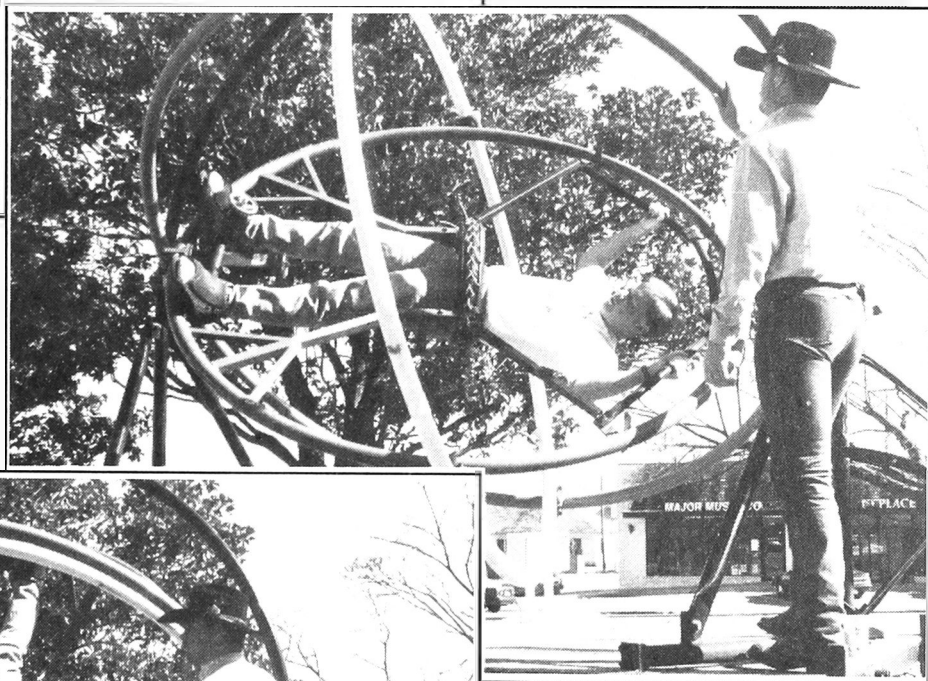
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'Hot Shots' winner of the week



This week's Hot Shots photos were taken by Woodward freshman Brian McDonald.



'Round and 'round

A brave and probably dizzy student takes his turn on the gyro machine attraction at the Spring Fling, held on the south lawn of the Student Union April 12. The event was sponsored by the Student Senate.

Prizes for 'Hot Shots' Contest Winners

- Horton Studio: free six-exposure sitting and one free 8x10 (use computer video view of sittings to choose).
- Blunck Studios: free wallet album. Choose from red, blue, green or black.
- Bring entries to SCI 117.

Track no longer ticking

Softball steals base

By SHEA BRODAUS/SPORTS REPORTER

Southwestern is having a switch-up in the sports programs for next semester. The addition of a women's softball program and the deletion of the track teams are the final call.

An NAIA/NCAA dual division women's softball program reappears this upcoming fall '96 semester. Southwestern once had a women's softball program in the '80s, but it fizzed out with lack of participation.

The discontinuation of the track teams starts next year.

According to Southwestern's athletic director Cecil Perkins, lack of our own track and loss of student interest made the decision.

However, some of the runners feel differently.

"I'm upset about it. As long as we've had track, how could they just take it away. They're are some good guys on the team... I can't believe that Friday is going to be my last [track] race. It's sad," said Jode Colbert, a member of the OIC Championship cross country team.

The university will still have the women's cross country team, but there has never been a men's team. The track team was scratched off the sports roster several years ago, and was reinstituted about three years ago.

Steve Williams stands as head coach for softball. He is currently an assistant football and head track coach.

Recruiting has begun and try-outs are May 1, 5 p.m. at Rader Park. Since this is fast-pitch, Williams said he is seeking women for all positions, but is especially looking for those with pitching and catching abilities. Scholarships are available, Williams said.

Those interested need to sign-up with Williams before April 29. For additional information call 774-3226.

A softball schedule for the 1996-97 season will be announced at a later date. The Lady Bulldogs will compete on the fields northeast of Weatherford at Rader Park.

Track team trying for qualifying numbers

The track teams have to run a qualifying time at any meet during the season to make it to the national competition in May.

Four runners have met the requirements for individual and relay events. Several others have come close.

Damon Willis qualified in the 100 and 200, along with Jake Jensen. Willie Brown qualified in the 100. Willis, Jensen, Brown and Landon Curtis run on the sprint relay team that has won first at several meets, and also qualified for nationals.

Brown has barely missed the cut off mark for nationals in the triple and long jump. Curtis has come close in the javelin, and Cory Merritt in the 110 hurdles.

On April 16 the team went to Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Willis and Brown once again placed first and second in the 100. Willis placed first in the 200. Brown leaped to first and second in the long jump and triple jump.

The sprint relay that has dominated this season's track meets took first with a 40.57.

Micheal Ottinger, Richard Banks, John Barringer and Merritt ran the 1600 relay home with a fourth place finish. Merritt also took third in the 400 hurdles.

In the women's competition, Tara Overstreet placed first in the 3000, and Jode Colbert followed with a fifth place finish.

Chastity Toffelson placed second in the discus and shot.

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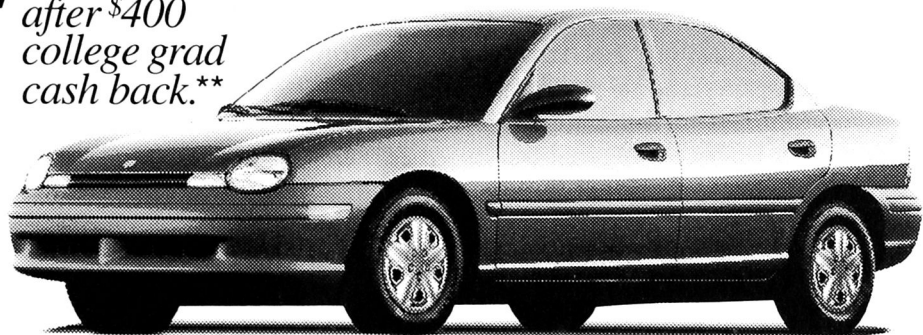
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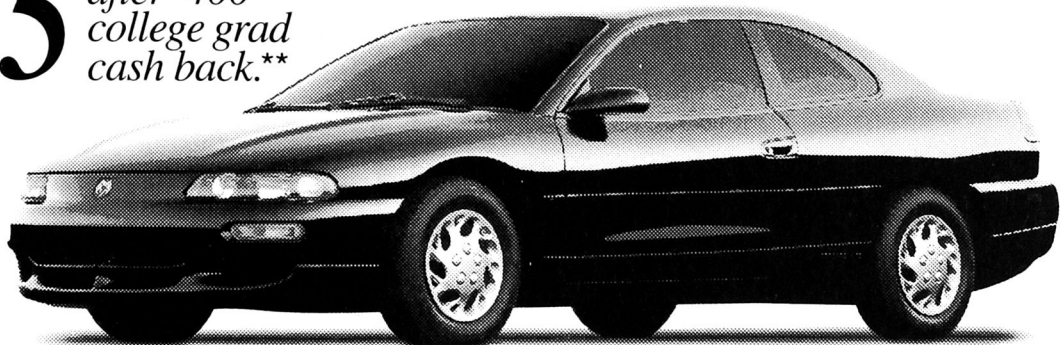
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Women golfers second at home; men move to fifth in nationals

The women's golf team, one week after qualifying for nationals, finished at their home tournament just eight strokes behind first place. They landed a solid second, with third place following by 30 strokes.

Kayla Freeman led the women by tying for first place. Freeman had a shoot off with Mandi Loeffelhoetz of Southern Nazarene University for medalist honors. Loeffelhoetz won the shootout. Southwestern had no other top five finishers.

The women have already qualified for nationals by shooting an average of 370 or less for a tournament. The home tournament was the last regularly scheduled golf tournament until the end of May when the national tournament is slated.

The men have been on the road lately, taking the team to Lost Creek golf course, where Shannon Friday placed third overall with a trio of 73s, totalling 219. The team placed fifth. The team has moved up in national rankings to fifth.

Other top five members of the team scored as follows: Cory Smith, 225; Cory Reneau, 227; Joel Burleson, 231; and Darrin Davis, 241.

The men sent two teams on the road later in the week to unscheduled matches. One team went to Ouachita Baptist in Arkansas. They won with a score of 309. The other Southwestern team tied for fifth in Winfield, Kan.

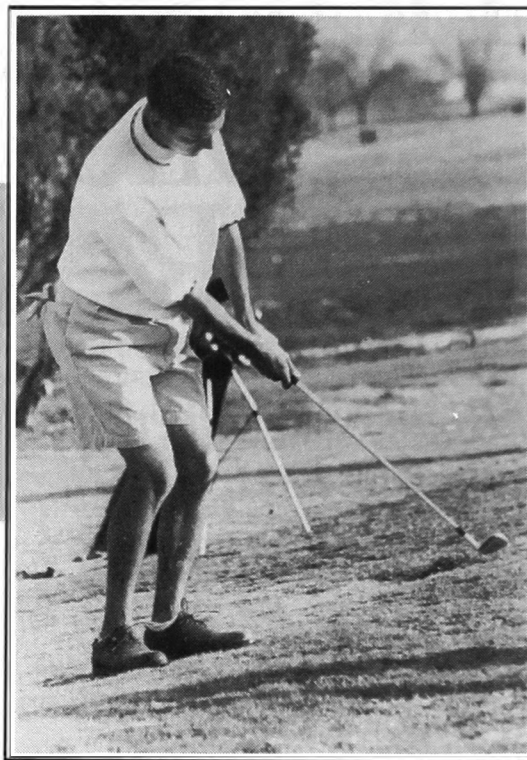


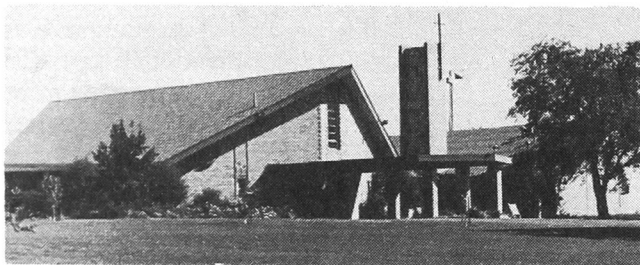
PHOTO COURTESY WEATHERFORD DAILY NEWS

Cory Reneau chips a shot in Southwestern's annual men's tournament last week. The squad is rated fifth nationally.

Welcome to St. Eugene Catholic Church & Student Center

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End Of Semester Pizza Party

\$1 Lunch, Every Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Mass Schedule: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday
6:00 p.m. Saturday 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sacrament of Penance: 5:00 p.m. Saturday

QUESTIONS? If you have a question about the Catholic faith, St. Eugene Catholic Church invites you to attend information meetings on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Attention Students!!

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Members of the last men's track team are Landon Curtis, Jake Jensen, Michael Ottinger, Dustin Baker, Cory Strahorn, Craig Schlessman, Cory Merritt, Damon Willis, Marshall Oliver, Trent Stafford, Billy Miller, Willie Brown, Richard Bankes, Jeff Gillett and John Barringer. The school will replace the track program with a softball team.

Tennis team whacks Southeastern in OIC

The men's tennis team swept Southeastern in Pauls Valley with a first place win in all singles and doubles positions.

Netters Zeljko Gagovic and Don Nguyen paired up to win their doubles match 7-6, 6-4. Jason Hughes and Cory Aldridge won No. 2 doubles, 6-1, 6-0.

Mark Feightner and Scott Williams finished first at No. 3 doubles with 7-5, 7-5.

Gagovic, Nguyen, Feightner, Hughs, Williams and Aldridge all took first in singles.

The team finished their season yesterday in Oklahoma City against Oklahoma Intercollegiate rival Northwestern.

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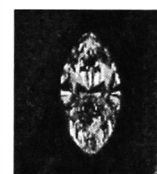
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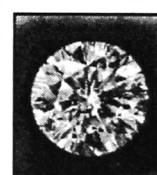
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Ct. Wt. - 1.04 ct.
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Clarity - SI1
Ct. Wt. - 1.03 ct.
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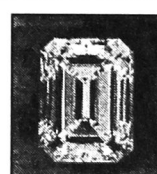
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Clarity Chart

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